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Guest Artist: Jon Nakamatsu

Jon Nakamatsu

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THE RACHEL S. THALER CONCERT PIANIST SERIES

WITH GUEST ARTIST

Jon Nakamatsu



*Wednesday, October 21, 1998
8:15 p.m.*

*Ford Hall Auditorium
Ithaca College*

ITHACA

Just one year ago JON NAKAMATSU was teaching German to high school students and playing to audiences of less than 300. Now he plays to packed concert halls, confirming that he is a talented, world-class pianist. The 1997 gold medal winner of the Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Nakamatsu is the first American to achieve this distinction since 1981. Immediately following his winning performance, he was invited to replace Vladimir Ashkenazy in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro as soloist with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin. He was presented at the Aspen Music Festival and at Tanglewood with the Boston Pops, and he appeared in recital at the Klavier Festival Ruhr and the Montpellier festival in Europe during the summer of 1997.

He was featured in *Playing with Fire*, a documentary about the Van Cliburn competition that was aired nationwide in October 1997. This past year Nakamatsu's schedule included touring with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, as well as orchestral engagements with the Columbus Symphony, Fort Worth Symphony, Naples Philharmonic, Utah Symphony, Orchestra Sinfonica Giuseppe Verdi in Milan, and National Symphony of the Dominican Republic. He also gave recitals at major venues throughout the world.

As the first-prize winner of the 1995 U.S. National Chopin Competition, Nakamatsu performed in recital at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He has made four commercial video recordings and a CD of a live performance with the Brno Concert Orchestra and Masterworks Chorale.

A native of California, Nakamatsu is a graduate of Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in German studies and a master's degree in education. He has studied piano privately with Marina Derryberry since the age of six.

JON NAKAMATSU

Pianist

Sonata in E Major, op. 109

Vivace, ma non troppo

Prestissimo

Andante molto cantabile ed espressivo

Ludwig van Beethoven

(1770–1827)

Polonaise in C-sharp Minor, op. 26, no.1

Grand Fantasy on Polish Airs, op. 13

Frédéric Chopin

(1810–49)

INTERMISSION

Nine Bagatelles

the ghost mazurka

aimai-je un rêve?

forgotten prayers

cycle de l'univers

la belle rouquine

Pegasus

this endernight

recess in hell

Circus Galop

William Bolcom

(b. 1938)

Four Etudes, op. 7

Igor Stravinsky

(1882–1971)

Sonetto 104 del Petrarca

(from *Années de Pelerinage, II*)

Tarantella (from *Venezia e Napoli*)

Franz Liszt

(1811–86)

Travel arrangements provided in part by American Airlines

THE RACHEL S. THALER CONCERT PIANIST SERIES was established at Ithaca College in 1991 in honor of Rachel Thaler.

A native Ithacan and talented pianist, Rachel Thaler attended the Ithaca public schools and graduated from Ithaca High School. She was awarded a scholarship to attend the Ithaca Conservatory of Music, but her father's unexpected death shortly before classes began required her to change her plan and step in to manage the family's furniture business instead.

Although she was never able to formally pursue her studies at the conservatory, Mrs. Thaler saw to it that her two sons and six grandchildren all had the opportunity to play musical instruments. Her love of music has remained strong, as has her attachment to Ithaca College. Both she and her late husband, Louis K. Thaler, were devoted supporters of the Friends of Ithaca College and members of the Tower Club for many years.

In addition to her musical skill, Rachel Thaler is a talented artist, working with needle painting, an ancient Chinese technique that uses pieces of colored thread rather than paint to create the image. Her work has been exhibited at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and in Rochester and Syracuse, and her technique has been featured in a video produced by the New York State Council on the Arts.

In endowing the concert series, Manley H. Thaler said, "My mother has always had an affinity for music. We wanted to do something in her honor during her lifetime. Because of her interest in Ithaca College and its outstanding music program, it was clear that the endowment fund should be created here."